

Context Clues: Example**ACADEMIC VOCABULARY**

context clue: word or phrase near an unfamiliar word that helps readers figure out the new word's meaning

example clue: a list of one or more examples that suggest the meaning of a new word

HERE'S HOW

Step 1: Identify the word. Ask yourself: Which word or words are unfamiliar?

Step 2: Use context. You can often determine a word's meaning from the surrounding words, or context. Look for more familiar words, phrases, or sentences surrounding a new or unfamiliar word.

Step 3: Look for examples. In an example clue, the writer lists examples that suggest the meaning of the new word.

- **Signal words** for example clues include: *such as, especially, like, for instance, for example, including.*
- **Punctuation marks** that might signal an example clue include: colons and dashes. The examples may come after a colon or before or after a dash.

Step 4: Define the word. Ask yourself how the example(s) relate to the unfamiliar word.

Step 5: Look up the unfamiliar word in a dictionary. Write the word and its definition in a special notebook. Include a sentence that uses the new word.

EXAMPLE: CONTEXT CLUE

Use the underlined **example clues** to figure out the meaning of *stringent*.

We have very **stringent** time limits, including a 14-minute lunch period and three minutes between classes.